The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

ROADS' PUBLICITY MACHINE IS WRECKED BY SUPREME COURT

In sustaining the "recapture clause" of the transportation act the United States supreme court has wrecked a publicity machine the railroads built at a cost of millions of dollars.

Since the close of the world war the roads used the people's money without stint to develop a public opinion based on the theory that the carriers are restricted by illegal and unnecessary legislation.

Every tax dodger and pleader for privilege joined the roads in broadcasting their hard-luck story. The thought behind this agitation was: "Leave us alone, and leave our friends alone."

The "recapture clause" provides that where a road earns more than 6 per cent profit, one-half of the excess shall be turned over to the interstate commerce commission to aid weaker roads.

Many powerful railroads objected to this clause. They said it is confiscatory; that the regulatory power of congress is limited to fixing reasonable rates and preventing rate discrimination.

The supreme court held that this is "too narrow a view of the commerce clause."

And then, after telling railroad officials that they lack vision, the court held:

That the transportation act "puts the railroad systems of the country more completely than ever under the fostering guardianship and control of the (interstate commerce) commission"; that the railroads must "avoid wasteful expenditures and unwise dividends"; that a business dedicated to the public service "can not expect either high or speculative dividends"; that no matter how efficiently they are operated, railroads are only entitled to fair or reasonable profit.

The decision will force the carriers to revise their publicity and propaganda campaign.

In view of the court's sweeping views, the railroads will not dare claim that government regulation is "un-American."

It may be said that the railroads will arrange matters so their profits will not exceed 6 per cent. This is a debatable procedure, in view of the court's reference to "wasteful expenditures." But if the railroads succeed the surprising and unusual principle embodied in the court's decision remains unscathed.

The decision gives the government almost unlimited power over the railroads. In the same ratio it silences those who would have the people believe there is no difference operating a private business and a public utility engaged in interstate commerce.

The decision is of educational value to trade unionists.

It demolishes a theory that is fundamentally false, though accepted by large numbers of citizens who agreed to the sophistry of skilled publicity men.

The destruction of this propaganda machine should teach every trade unionist that a false public opinion is but temporary; that there is no merit in an artificial public sentiment.

German Unionists Thank Gompers

Washington, January 19.—With trade union greetings, German organized workers thank President Gompers for his assistance in aiding them in maintaining their movement.

In a letter to the A. F. of L. executive, President Leipart of the General Federation of German Trade Unions, says:

"My dear Colleague: I received your telegram today with the information that the A. F. of L. has issued an appeal for the assistance of the German trade unions, and requesting me that I should furnish you with the name of the person to whom, and the manner in which, the money should be transmitted.

"For your communication, which was the cause of much happiness as also all of your previous efforts in our behalf, I extend to you, in the name of our executive board, our sincere appreciation. The condition of the German trade unions is and has been in the most deplorable condition during the past months. We have endeavored to the best of our ability to oppose the tremendous depreciation in money. However, all of our efforts were futile. Therefore, the general depreciation of German money completely wrecked the trade union finances.

"Therefore, the German trade unions, in order to at least keep functioning under the present circumstances had to ask for international assistance. It is a great pleasure to me that the American trade union movement will render assistance.

"Accept, honored colleague, again our sincere thanks therefore. In the name of our executive board, I assure you that the German trade unions will never forget this proof of solidarity of yours and our American brothers. With trade union greetings, LEIPART."

NO PROFIT FOR "WATER" SAYS SEN. LA FOLLETTE

Washington, Jan. 19.—Senator La Follette has introduced amendments to the transportation act which would change the theory of this legislation.

Now rates are based on present-day costs of railroad properties. Senator La Follette insists that rates should be based on actual money expended and on the basis of actual service rendered.

"I reject the theory that public utilities have any right to earn profits on inflated and fictitious value," said Senator La Follette. "I propose that the interstate commerce commission shall fix rates on the basis of cost of service. By cost of service I mean operating expense, plus actual capital cost. Capital cost is interest on bonds, plus fair dividends for stock that represents money invested.

"The basis for finding the capital cost of transportation service will be provided in the reports of the interstate commerce commission, made in accordance with the valuation act. The principal purpose of this act is to obtain findings of original cost of railroad properties so as to determine the amount of money actually and prudently invested. Unfortunately this purpose has not been completely fulfilled owing to the opposition of the railroads.

"But a majority of the interstate commerce commission have admitted, in their recent decision upon the petition of the national conference on railroad valuation, that the original cost to date can and should be ascertained. My amendment to the valuation act directs the commission to do this.

"The amendments which I offer are based upon the principle that the private owners of the railroads are entitled to be reimbursed for the actual cost of the services they perform and to be paid a fair return upon the money which they have prudently invested in property now devoted to public service."

BERRY RE-NOMINATED; HAS NO OPPOSITION

Pressmen's Home, Tenn., Jan. 19.—President Berry and other officials of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' union have been unanimously renominated by affiliated unions and these officials will go into the general election in February without opposition.

"This is an endorsement of my colleagues and myself," said President Berry, "in upholding our contract in the New York newspaper situation and our 11 years' effort in promoting and expanding technical trade education and advocating the building up of an intelligent apprentice system.

"The unanimous re-election of our administration further assures the continuation of American trade union principles and the upholding of American ideals and traditions."

ALIEN LAW AIDS COUNTRY

New York, Jan. 19.—Immigration laws are no longer designed to benefit the immigrant, but the country at large in their making is "America first," said W. W. Husband, commissioner general of immigration, in a speech at the Lawyers' club.

Without legal restriction the tremendous tide of immigrants would only be limited to the inability of the transportation lines to carry them and the ability of relatives already here to send them money, the commissioner said.

EMPLOYMENT IS LOWER

Washington, Jan. 19.—Employment in the United States decreased 1.5 per cent in December, and there was a decrease of 1.7 per cent in pay roll totals, according to preliminary figures issued by the bureau of labor statistics.

MILK DRIVERS GAIN

Oakland, Cal., Jan. 19.—Organized milk drivers have secured a substantial wage increase, following long negotiations.

SHOP MEN'S STRIKE WAS FORCED ON THEM

Sioux City, Iowa, Jan. 19.—The shop men's strike was inevitable, declared Rev. J. D. Pettit of Fort Dodge in an address to the striker Car Men's union of this city. The roads ignored the law and the railroad labor board acted at these evasions, he said.

"It is common knowledge that the railroad companies were violating decisions of the railroad labor board and defying the transportation act," said the clergyman. "In spite of efforts of the organizations to adjust things in their favor, their work became a national scandal.

"The granted a 13-cent increase to the shop crafts and then in two slashes took away 15 cents an hour. They also took away the 8-hour day overtime arrangement. Yet I know of some pious-faced, big churches who hoist their heads off about a Sunday ball game, but they applaud the action of the board that repudiated the efforts of thousands of honest workingmen who would like to have their Sundays off as well as anybody."

"This board called upon heaven and earth to make the employes obey their decisions, but the railroads violated their orders almost with impunity, until 104 counts were piled up against them in their violations.

"The board would act quickly on the railroad complaints, but they would wear the men out with delays. The strike was inevitable."

WANT LONGER HOURS FOR WORKING WOMEN

Boston, Jan. 19.—Big business is determined to repeal the women's 8-hour law, which applies to textile establishments. Three bills have been filed in the senate by George A. Long, who insists that Massachusetts textile mills are handicapped because of the competition with 55-hour women labor in South Carolina.

These manufacturers ignore the experience and opinions of industrial engineers and physicians, who declare that shorter hours are more profitable.

One of Mr. Long's bills would permit women and children to work from 6 in the morning until 10 at night. Another bill would permit women and children to work 58 hours per week or 10 hours a day, but the total must not average more than 54 hours for the entire year. This will permit women and children to be speeded up and then laid off.

OFFER LABOR BILLS

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 19.—Bills providing for the creation of a minimum wage board and for the eight-hour work day for women and minors, has been introduced in the state legislature. These proposals were recommended by Governor Smith in his message.

In a joint statement the authors of the legislation say:

"The bill, if enacted into law, will enable the workers of our state to enjoy some of the benefits of modern life, instead of contributing all their time to creating comforts for others. The eight-hour day is no longer a dream, but a crying necessity."

OPPOSE CONVICT LABOR

Baltimore, Jan. 19.—Organized iron molders are up in arms against the proposal to spend $75,000 on the Maryland penitentiary foundry. The molders declare that this will be contrary to present vicious contract system, which exploits the convicts and wrongs the free molder by flooding the market with made castings, thereby causing unemployment and distress."

ASBESTOS WORKERS OUT

Boston, Jan. 19.—After failing to secure a satisfactory wage agreement following a year of negotiations, asbestos workers throughout New England suspended work. The men are 100 per cent organized. They are asking for $1.12½ an hour, or $9 a day. The bosses offer $1 an hour.

LITTLE TOTS LABOR IN DISEASED HOMES

New York, Jan. 19.—Silk dresses and clock silk hosiery are embroidered in tenement houses in this city by women and children, according to testimony before the state child welfare commission at a public hearing to determine what changes, if any, should be made in the tenement house laws.

Margaret A. McGroarty, a visiting teacher, told of frightful conditions in the Italian section of lower New York. She said manufacturing work is done in nearly every home she visited. Children are taught to do this artificial flowers. With their tiny fingers they apply paste to the flower that the mother or older sister may apply the petals.

"The wages are deplorable," she testified. "Crochet dresses that sell for $49.50 are finished for $1. Conditions in East Harlem are simply appalling. Fourteen cents for artificial flowers, 'babies' coat of apparel' are made in homes where disease is prevalent. The children come home from school, drink their bad tea and but go right to work during the noon intermission and even when they can. Even small children remove the clocks on silk stockings sold in our high grade stores. They make artificial flowers, babies' coat of apparel. For June roses they get 20 cents a gross. For the clock on stockings they are paid at the rate of $3.50 to $4.50 for a dozen pairs."

It is not true that tenement work is done mainly by poor widows, George A. Hall, secretary of the child welfare commission, told the state commission. A survey, he said, disclosed that widows form less than 10 per cent of the entire human element engaged in factory and shop work. Of 2,080 families, 1,065 earned less than $300 a year and the remainder less than $500 a year in home work. None made more than $500.

Dr. Annie Goodrich of the New York infirmary for women told the commission that insanitary conditions and communicable diseases prevail in many tenement homes where work is done for manufacturers.

With her testimony, witnesses favored the abolition of home manufacturing. They said employers who depend on tenement work are inhumane and are engaged in what they contemptuously referred to as "beggar industries."

FOOD BILLS GO UP

Washington, Jan. 19.—Food prices increased in 21 cities reporting in the period December 15, 1922, to December 15, 1923, according to the bureau of labor statistics.

Manchester, with 5 per cent, showed the largest increase; Columbus and New Haven followed with 5 per cent; Birmingham, Jacksonville, Peoria, 4 per cent; Baltimore, Fall River and San Francisco, 3 per cent; Buffalo, Little Rock, New York, Richmond, St. Paul, Salt Lake City and Portland, Me., 2 per cent; Louisville, Rochester and Seattle, 1 per cent; Minneapolis showed less than five-tenths of 1 per cent. Food costs in Butte decreased less than five-tenths of 1 per cent.

CONFERENCES ARE HELPFUL

Boston, Jan. 19.—Conferences between President Sigman of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union and local dress manufacturers has paved the way for an agreement.

CARPENTERS WANT MORE

Mahanoy City, Pa., Jan. 19.—Carpenters in the lower anthracite district are preparing to ask for a 10 per cent wage increase.

Women In Industry a Fixture; "Pin Money" Theory Exploded

Washington, Jan. 19.—The old theory that women are only temporarily engaged in industry, as they marry and abandon the factory and store, is shattered by the United States women's bureau in its study on "Women in South Carolina Industries."

The study shows that out of 3,495 women reporting, slightly more than one-half either were or had been married.

This, the report shows, is "striking testimony to the fact that marriage does not necessarily mean the withdrawal of women from industry. In fact, marriage with increased financial responsibilities often drives the women an entrance into the industrial field.

"Visits made by investigators to the homes of these workins women disclosed that in virtually all cases the women's earnings were necessary and needed to keep the family on the subsistence level."

The theory that women work for pin money is also exploded, not only as far as married women are concerned, but also for single women. Many instances were found of daughters or sisters who were bearing heavy financial and domestic burdens because the mother was a widow or the father's wages were too low to maintain the family.

The report stamps as "not only fallacious, but also dangerous" the theory that women who live with their families do not need such high wages as do those living independently.

"A woman should be paid according to services rendered and not according to whether she lives with her family or in a boarding house," says the report.

Under the South Carolina law 55 hours is a work week in the textile industry, but there is no limit to the hours any other industries or in stores. It is stated that three-fourths of the women investigated were working under hour schedules that was a drain on their health.

"That this drain on strength and vitality under such inconvenient system of long hours—is not essential to successful production, is illustrated by the fact that many establishments in the country operating on the eight-hour day and the 48-hour week. Very few mills in South Carolina have adopted so short a schedule," it is stated.

There is no minimum wage law in South Carolina, and the report states that the great bulk of wages is below standards set by many minimum wage commissions.

"Even when the lower cost of living characteristic of mill communities is considered, the wages of the majority of women textile operatives were not sufficient to enable them to live up to a standard indorsed by American ideals," the report continues.

MELLON TAX PLAN CONDEMNED; SENATOR SAYS IT AIDS WEALTHY

WHO "OILS" THIS PROPAGANDA MACHINE?

Who "oils" the nation-wide propaganda machine that is singing the praises of the Mellon tax bill?

Senator Couzens has challenged Secretary Mellon to publicly debate a proposal, whose only merit, the Michigan lawmaker declares, is to lessen the taxes of those able to pay.

Senator Couzens said he paid $7,229,161 taxes on his 1919 income.

This tax, he said, would have been cut $4,000,000 if the Mellon plan had been in force at that time.

Who "oils" the machine?

Washington, Jan. 19.— Senator Couzens has challenged Secretary of the Treasury Mellon to a public debate on the latter's tax plan, now before congress.

Both men belong to the administration party, and both are considered among the richest in the country. Secretary Mellon insists that low taxes on the rich will release capital for industry and thus create more employment. He also urges that an end be put to the issuance of tax exempt bonds by states and municipalities.

These two proposals, backed by one of the greatest propaganda organizations the nation ever witnessed, are opposed by Senator Couzens. In his letter to Mr. Mellon he said that if taxes on higher incomes is reduced this will result in a deluge of dividends from industry to private individuals. He added that the mere transfer of ownership of one person to the other, through the sale of stocks and other investments, would "have no constructive force in the country's business." On the other hand, the distribution of cash dividends, he said, would result in taking out of many industries large amounts of capital now held in their treasury.

Senator Couzens stated that in the last 10 years he has paid income taxes to the amount of $8,223,679, nearly all of which has been surtax.

"In 1920. based on 1919 income, I paid 65 per cent surtax, or a total of $7,229,161 to the federal treasury," he said

"This resulted entirely from a transfer of ownership of certain property I had, and in no way had any effect whatever upon the industry of the country. Had the present law been in force I would have saved nearly $2,000,000, and if your proposal of a maximum of 25 per cent in surtax had been the law, I would have saved nearly $4,000,000; so I do not see how even the richest can fail to enjoy those enormous savings for those well able to pay."

The Michigan senator said the small amount of tax exempt securities—in proportion to the large amount of other investments—is to give an appearance of the whole discussion as a tempest in a teapot."

Secretary Mellon was asked if he contended that it was less productive to invest money in school houses, waterworks, lighting plants, state railway plants, good roads, colleges, sewerage systems and health-serving institutions than it was in theaters, office buildings, motion picture houses, ball parks, distilleries, breweries, chewing gum, cosmetic factories and the like.

DEFECTIVE ENGINES USED BY PENNSY R. R.

Indianapolis, Jan. 19.—Passenger trains on the Pennsylvania system have been delayed in this city from two hours to indefinite periods when inspectors of the interstate commerce commission ordered out of service defective locomotives hauling the trains.

Some of the defectives were used on extra-fare trains.

The railroad's poor equipment is believed by the shop men's strike and the attempt of this corporation to destroy the unions of these workers through a hand-picked company "union" that the railroad management favors.

WOULD END COST-PLUS

Washington, Jan. 19.—The house committee on military affairs has reported a bill to abolish the cost-plus contract system for government supplies in time of war. It is proposed that the president fix the price of services and commodities, and where bids are necessary they shall be received by telegraph or telephone.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES

San Mateo, Cal., Jan. 19.—The Typographical union has signed a new scale. The 48-hour week for both news and commercial shops is agreed to. Rates will be $46 for day work and $49 for night work.

Dubuque, Iowa, Jan. 19.—The Typographical union has established the 44-hour week in commercial shops. Rates are reduced for the job printers, and the newspaper scale is increased $3.40 a week.

WOBBLIES' SECRET AID PERMITS 'EM TO EXIST

New York, Jan. 19.—If the I. W. W., the Marine relief society and other syndicalist outfits gain by creating themselves, rather than be organized or fostered by the American steamship owners' association, their propaganda would have ceased some time ago, said Andrew Furuseth, president of the International Seamen's union in his report to the annual convention of that body.

"The fact that these organizations have been able to continue and that they have been able to issue pamphlets and papers which they have issued, and that they have been able to keep organizations going for years in several ports should be sufficient proof to us that these organizations are receiving aid from those who have an interest they are specifically working," said President Furuseth.

The association of money that they have been able to collect from seamen in the last year has been utterly insufficient for the agitation and for all the propaganda for the purpose of wiping out the International Seamen's union of the world.

"We know that the representatives of these organizations have had admission to the vessels, that they have distributed their propaganda—oral and printed—that the expenses connected therewith, the agitation and all that it could not have been continued without subsidies from somebody, and it is reasonable and permissible to assume that those who permitted the distribution of the propaganda bore part of the expense."

WANT STATE TO AID CONVICTS' FAMILIES

Columbia, S. C., Jan. 19.—Greenville county legislators announce that they will ask the state legislature to provide for the families of state criminals. A system of compensation for relatives of convicted men to prevent them from becoming wards of the state or objects of charity will be advocated.

Advocates of the plan point out that in many cases children of a convicted father are thrown homeless after making a grim fight for existence under their handicaps.

NEW IMMIGRATION BILL

Washington, Jan. 19.—Restriction of immigration on a basis of 2 per cent of the foreign citizens of each nationality in 1890, has been voted by the house immigration committee.

The provision for admission also of 2 per cent of the blood relatives of citizens now here was rejected. The committee agreed to exempt wives or husbands of citizens, their children under 18 years of age and their mothers and fathers over 55 years of age.

The present law, which expires on June 30, restricts immigration to 3 per cent of the foreign-born of each nation here in 1910. The restriction just voted by the committee would cut by more than half the present quotas of many countries, especially those in southern and eastern Europe.

"JUDGE-JURY-ACCUSER" PLAN EXPOSED BY EASTERN JURIST

Trenton, N. J., Jan. 19.—Opposition to that part of the judicial procedure which permits a court to act as judge, jury and accuser in contempt cases involving violation of a labor injunction was voiced by Justice Minturn of the court of errors and appeals in the cases of Milton Corbett and Percy Goldenberg, fur workers.

The two men were sentenced to three months in jail by Vice Chancellor Buchanan for violating an anti-picketing injunction during a strike at the Balk fur company's plant more than a year ago. The court unanimously set aside Goldenberg's conviction, but affirmed Corbett's conviction by a vote of 11 to 1. In each instance Justice Minturn voted to set aside the conviction.

In a decision that sustains organized labor's agitation for certain principles, Justice Minturn declared that workers are sentient beings, endowed with the human faculties of understanding, memory and will, and that the Balk company persisted in the foolish claim that they own the labor of their employes.

Justice Minturn held that Goldenburg and Corbett were not parties to the injunction order, nor was the order served upon Goldenberg whose only knowledge of its contents consisted in what he had casually heard.

"At law, manifestly a conviction obtained upon an indictment under such circumstances could not stand," said the justice.

Reference is also made to Goldenberg's denial that he threatened violence.

"In a court of law this denial would purge him of guilt and would entitle him to an immediate discharge from custody," said Justice Minturn.

"All the presumptions, rights and privileges to which a defendant is entitled at law before a jury of his peers should be invoked and applied in his behalf here, and in this instance the application of those principles should lead to the discharge of both defendants.

"Upon those grounds I shall vote to reverse in both cases with the observation that unwritten law is not unpropitious for legislative intervention providing for the application in the first instance of the ordinary constitutional and legal procedure of trial by jury in this class of cases."

TAX PRIVILEGE HEAVY, IS CHURCH MEN'S VIEW

Washington, Jan. 19.—At a time when the nation is discussing tax revolutions, the National Catholic welfare conference issues this significant statement, under the caption "Bishops' Program Advocated Heavy Taxes On Rich:"

"The bishops' program of social reconstruction, issued in February, 1919, advocated 'heavy taxation on incomes, excess profits and inheritances' as one of the means of remedying 'excessive gains by a small minority of privileged capitalists.'

"In commenting on this proposal the statement states that 'our immense war debt constitutes a particular reason why incomes and excess profits should continue to be heavily taxed.' It adds that 'in this way two important ends will be attained; the poor will be relieved of injurious tax burdens, and the small class of special privileged capitalists will be compelled to return a part of their unearned gains to society.'"

From the Side Lines

In a speech in the house Congressman Black of Texas said: "Labor may make a mistake in the selection of representatives, as indeed it has done in the past, but that does not alter the principle that labor has the right to select its own representatives."

Page Mr. Atterbury of the Pennsylvania railroad: He insists on selecting labor's representatives. That's the reason for company "unions."

In his challenge to Secretary Mellon to debate the tax plan of the treasury, Senator Couzens let the cat out of the bag. Mr. Mellon says that the market price, rather than the assessed valuation, is the proper basis for valuing securities. Senator Couzens replies that investments made by him have returned from 20 to 40 per cent on the basis of money expended, but only 8½ per cent on the basis of market value.

The market value conceals profits, as the Michigan lawmaker shows.

LOST FARM CONTROL DURING BOOM PERIOD

Washington, Jan. 19.—More than 8½ per cent of the farmers who owned land in 1920 and more than 7 per cent of the tenant farmers in 15 corn and wheat producing states have lost their property with or without legal process, due to the deflation of the boom period, unwise investments or other causes, according to the department of agriculture.

This indicated, it was said, that out of a total of 2,289,000 owner and tenant farmers in these sections considered more than 108,000 lost their farms or other property through foreclosure or voluntary sale, and 173,000 retained their holdings through legal proceedings and nearly 373,000 retained their property because of the leniency of creditors.

REACTION IS BEHIND REVOLT IN MEXICO

San Antonio, Texas, Jan. 19.—Trade unionists along the Rio Grande river say they are acquainted with Mexican conditions agree that reaction is behind Huerta and his revolt. The large land owners and other reactionaries would re-establish the old regime, when the agrarian law favored them rather than the people. Another object is to abolish all democratic forms, set up a military dictator and abolish the office of president and the national congress.

MOVE FREIGHT BY MOTOR

Washington, Jan. 19.—Delegates to the motor transportation conference in session here, estimated that more than $1,000,000,000 can be saved to the railroads in the next five years through the transference of freight terminals from congested to suburban districts together with the use of motor trucks.

It was stated that the Pennsylvania railroad is using motors on short hauls and has found the project profitable.

PLUMBERS TO ARBITRATE

Salem, Ore., Jan. 19.—Plumbers have ended their short strike for a wage increase on the promise of employers to arbitrate. The present rate is $7.50 for eight hours. The plumbers want $8.50.

LARGE AUTO PROFITS

New York, Jan. 19.—A profit of $9,280,622 for the year 1923 is announced by the Studebaker motor company. This concern has averaged annually more than $5,000,000 profit the past eight years.

NON-UNION COAL MINES KILL IN WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston, W. Va., Jan. 19.—West Virginia coal statistics for the last fiscal year tell a grim story of murderous non-union coal mines where men and spies intimidate workers.

In Logan county, where private armies are maintained by the coal owners, there were 56 fatal and 62 non-fatal accidents during the fiscal year. For each 243,678 tons of coal produced, one miner lost his life, and for each 220,696 tons another miner was crushed or maimed.

During the same period Marion county, which is almost 100 per cent unionized, reported seven fatal and eight non-fatal accidents. That county produced 475,000 tons of coal for each miner killed and injured.

In McDowell county, another haven for gun men and anti-union sentiment, there were 70 men killed and 74 injured. For every 216,863 tons of coal produced one miner lost his life and another was injured. This record is 52 per cent higher than the record of Marion county.

This same percentage is maintained in other union and anti-union counties, where no mine workers have been destroyed, bodies maimed and lives crushed out when organized labor is permitted to function.

The report states that the average earnings of miners for the fiscal year was $1,045.05.

LABOR LEGAL BUREAU BEGINS TO FUNCTION

Washington, Jan. 19.—The first bulletin of the A. F. of L. legal information bureau has been issued, following action by the Portland and Cincinnati conventions, which created the bureau. A. F. of L. Vice President Matthew Woll announces.

This bulletin is the first step to be taken in the dissemination of legal information, and it is hoped it will be a guidance and of interest to labor organizations. This bulletin will be issued, not at any stated time, but as circumstances permit or occasion demands.

"It is our hope that, with the growth of the bureau, we may be able to reprint or mimeograph all the extraordinary decisions affecting labor and labor organizations, with such opinions and guidance as may be helpful.

"Where comment on a decision is made it will be so stated. Otherwise, the language quoted will be that of the court rendering the decision."

ENORMOUS WAGE LOSSES ARE LAID TO ACCIDENTS

Chicago, Jan. 19.—Wage losses of $2,000,000 a year in Illinois resulting from industrial accidents and occupational sickness, declared Richard E. Kropf, chief official of a fraternal insurance organization, at a safety conference here. Another loss of more than $2,000,000 a year is sustained by manufacturers in decreased production for the same causes, he said.

"Approximately 500,000 workers are injured so badly each year that either they are maimed for life or lose more than a month's time in recovery," the official pointed out. "This is a heavier toll of injured than the world war exacted in the 19 months of American participation. The woeful commentary on these amazing figures is that always show 60 per cent of these accidents are preventable."

EVERYBODY OWES $283

Washington, Jan. 19.—The public debt of the United States aggregates $32,786,715,000, or more than three-quarters times what it was in 1919, when the war was in full sequely. It would mean that every man, woman and child owes $283.

Annual interest charges on this huge sum amounts to $1,311,468,600, or $12.06 a year for every man, woman and child.

Because of the war, the nation's indebtedness has increased 672 per cent in 10 years.

ACCIDENTS INCREASE

Harrisburg, Pa., Jan. 19.—Workers are killed and injured in the mines, mills and factories of this state in increasing numbers. The record for 1923 is one of slaughter. There were 200,438 accidents, or 54,180 more than in 1922. Fatal accidents jumped from 1,890 to 2,412 during this period.

EMPLOYMENT DROPS

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 19.—Employment dropped slightly in this state during November, reports the New York department of labor. The decline of about 1 per cent followed a similar decrease in November.